

**00604**

**1981/06/18**

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SUBJECT= MOFA STATEMENT CONCERNING HAIG VISIT AND THE -- PRESIDENT'S PRESS  
CONFERENCE

REFERENCE= 81 TAIPEI 3139

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TAGS= PINT, OVIP, TW, (HAIG, ALEXANDER M JR)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE		IS/FFC/CDR	TRR	Date: 12/5/96
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ACTION AIT-02

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-15 CIAE-00 EA-10 ICA-11  
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AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
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E.O. 12065: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, TW  
SUBJECT: MOFA STATEMENT CONCERNING HAIG VISIT AND THE  
- PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE

REF: TAIPEI 3139

1. ON JUNE 17, MOFA ISSUED A PRESS RELEASE GIVING "QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS" ON SECRETARY HAIG'S ANNOUNCEMENT ON ARMS SALES TO THE PRC AND ON PRESIDENT REAGAN'S COMMENTS ON TAIWAN AT HIS WASHINGTON NEWS CONFERENCE AS EXPECTED (REFTEL). THE TEXT OF THE MOFA RELEASE IS AS FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT.

SPOKESMAN OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TODAY ANSWERED TWO QUESTIONS RAISED BY REPORTERS AS FOLLOWS:

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1. QUESTION:

DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON WHAT PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN SAID

ABOUT THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT AT A PRESS CONFERENCE ON JUNE 16 IN WASHINGTON, D.C.?

– ANSWER:

WE ARE PLEASED TO KNOW THAT PRESIDENT REAGAN REITERATED HIS FIRM INTENTION TO FULLY IMPLEMENT THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT, BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THIS IS BENEFICIAL TO BOTH THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

2. QUESTION:

ACCORDING TO NEWS REPORTS THAT U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE ALEXANDER HAIG SAID TUESDAY NIGHT AT A NEWS CONFERENCE IN PEIPING THAT THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION WOULD LOOSEN UP THE RESTRICTIONS ON ARMS SALES TO THE COMMUNIST CHINA, WILL YOU MAKE ANY COMMENT ON THIS?

– ANSWER:

WE ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED OVER THIS UNFORTUNATE DECISION, BECAUSE IT IS NOT IN THE INTEREST OF THE PEACE AND STABILITY OF THE EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC REGION. WE SEE NO BENEFIT BUT HARM OUT OF THIS TO BOTH THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER FREE NATIONS IN THIS REGION.  
END TEXT.

THE SPOKESMAN'S ANSWERS WERE CARRIED BY ALL CHINESE AND ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS.

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2. WHILE THE TONE OF THE ANSWERS IS STILL CALM, THE HANDLING OF THE AFFAIR INDICATES CONSIDERABLE CONCERN, WHICH HAS BEEN REFLECTED IN THE REMARKS OF THE BETTER INFORMED PERSONS TO WHOM WE HAVE SPOKEN. IN ADDITION TO THE CAUTIOUS MOFA ANSWER CONCERNING THE PRESIDENT'S SUPPORT OF THE TRA, THERE IS A MORE UPBEAT REACTION FROM GIO DIRECTOR JAMES SOONG, WHICH APPEARS TO BE DESIGNED TO BE MORE REASSURING TO THE LOCAL POPULATION. THOMAS

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